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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended). An edible toy for an animal, comprising:
a shell for oral interaction with the animal; and
at least one underlying layer formed of an edible material physically differentiated from and surrounded encased by the shell that is accessible by the animal over an extended period of time, the toy is consumable edible in its entirety;
wherein the at least one underlying layer comprises a layer binding material that provides consistency to retain form, the binding material releases layer materials upon penetration, and a shape of the shell facilitates stimulation of a cat to interact therewith by prolonged motion of the toy when the toy is set in motion and the edible material facilitates stimulation of a cat to interact therewith; the edible material including catnip.
2. (Previously Presented) The toy of claim 1, wherein the edible material comprises at least one of an inducement, a nutrient, or a treatment.
3. (Cancelled)
4. (Cancelled)
5. (Previously Presented) The toy of claim 1, wherein the edible material is accessed by at least one of the cat biting the shell or clawing the shell.
6. (Currently Amended) The toy of claim 1, wherein the ~~shell surrounds~~ at least one underlying layer comprises multiple layers of a plurality of different edible materials.
7. (Previously Presented) The toy of claim 6, wherein the multiple layers are formed concentrically about a core material.

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8. (Previously Presented) The toy of claim 1, wherein the shell includes at least one of an edible nodule or a string affixed thereto.

9. (Previously Presented) The toy of claim 1, wherein the shell is compressed to a compression parameter for a particular animal such that a lower compression parameter facilitates easier access to the edible material and a higher compression parameter facilitates more difficult access to the edible material.

10. (Currently Amended) An edible toy for a cat, comprising:
 an outside shell for oral interaction with the cat, the shell comprises an ~~made~~
~~of an outer~~ edible material and catnip for stimulation of the cat to interact therewith; and
 an inner edible material ~~surrounded~~ encased by the shell, the inner edible
material comprises a binding material that provides consistency and rigidity, thereby
resulting in a time release of the inner edible material accessible by the cat ~~based on wear of~~
~~the shell by the cat over an extended period of time~~, the inner edible material made of
 different edible components and catnip, wherein the entire toy is of edible material and
 thereby ~~consumable~~ edible in its entirety.

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Currently Amended) The toy of claim 12, wherein the inner edible material is in the form of at least one of a liquid, a gel, a paste, or one or more edible objects ~~that move freely within the shell.~~

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Previously Presented) The toy of claim 10, wherein the shell includes one or more holes for releasing the inner edible material therethrough to the cat.

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16. (Previously Presented) The toy of claim 10, wherein the shell is flexible such that distortion thereof by the cat causes the inner edible material to be released to the cat.

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Currently Amended) An edible toy for a cat, comprising:
a shell for interaction by the cat, the shell made of an edible material that includes catnip, maintains freshness of underlying material and that gradually wears away as the cat interacts therewith; and
an inner edible material that is the underlying material and which is ~~enclosed~~ encased by the shell and accessible by the cat over an extended period of time, wherein the shell and inner edible material include an edible binding material that provides consistency and rigidity, so as to release inner edible material upon penetration, such that the toy is composed of edible material in its entirety.

20. (Cancelled)

21. (Currently Amended) A method of providing an edible toy for an animal, comprising:
providing an edible material;
providing a binding material that provides consistency to retain form;
mixing the edible material and binding material into a homogeneous mixture of an inducement and at least one of a nutrient or a treatment;
forming an outer shell for housing the ~~edible material~~ homogenous mixture;
and
~~enclosing~~ encasing the edible material within the outer shell.

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22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21, wherein the edible material includes an inducement that stimulates the animal, which is a cat, to interact therewith.

23. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 22, further comprising compressing the shell and the edible material to a compression parameter that allows the cat to access the edible material via at least one of licking, biting, or clawing.

24. (Cancelled)

25. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21, further comprising mixing the edible material such that a mixture of edible components thereof exhibit a marbling effect.

26. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 21, further comprising forming a hole in the outer shell such that the edible material can be replaced therethrough.

27. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 21, wherein the outer shell comprises the edible material.